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October 18, 1995

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN STUDENTS TO PAINT THE TOWN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University students will be relying on their artistic talents when they help the Charleston Fire Department by repainting the caps of the city's fire hydrants Saturday, Oct. 21.

Crystal Jones, a project coordinator, said the weekend event will demonstrate the students' concern for the community. "We're taking it upon ourselves to show that students do want to make Charleston a better place," Jones said.

Charleston Fire Chief Tom Watson said the work the students are willing to do is more than welcome.

"We are hoping to make it into an annual proposition," Watson said. "Our workload has become such that we've had to rely on community service workers (to paint the hydrants)."

Currently, there are 700 fire hydrants in the city of Charleston, of which only a few have been painted over the past year, according to Watson.

Angie Churchill, also a project coordinator, said she and Student Senate Vice President of Public Affairs Jason Anselment

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were first approached with the idea by Watson earlier in the summer.

Students interested in participating in the project should meet in front of Old Main at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, Churchill said. Paint and maps of the city will be furnished.

The fire hydrant caps will be painted red, orange or green according to the amount of water the hydrant can pump per minute.

"We will hopefully have 40 to 60 people," Churchill said. "Each of the co-coordinators are supposed to recruit 15 people; however, anyone is welcome to help out."